[Mr. James Fletcher]

(*c*) whether there are doctors having special training in eye diseases employed in other sections of the Medical Department ; and

(*d*) whether the Department has any good reason for employing untrained doctors in the Ophthalmic Hospital ?

Vaidyasastrakusala Dr. (Mrs.) M. Poonen Lukose : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) In view of answer to part (*a*) this does not arise.

(*c*) There are some officers working in other sections who had training in the Ophthalmic Hospital.

(*d*) It is only by posting Medical Officers to the Ophthalmic Hospital that they can get training in the treatment of eye diseases.

Mr. James Fletcher : With reference to the answer to part (*a*), may I know whether the special training referred to in the answer is training recognised by colleges or schools or only it means that the Doctors spent a few days in the Ophthalmic Hospital ?

Vaidyasastrakusala Dr. (Mrs.) M. Poonen Lukose : There are three Doctors in the Ophthalmic Hospital Sir, Two of them have English qualifications in eye diseases and the third one has been for three years in this Hospital and he has also had previous training in this institution.

Pay-ward of the General Hospital.

42. **Mr. James Fletcher :** Will the Government be pleased o state :

(*a*) the number of beds available for patients in the pay-ward of the General Hospital and whether they are sufficient for the growing needs of the city ;

(*b*) whether the pay-ward is located in the most congenial and attractive part of the General Hospital premises ;

(*c*) whether there is any decent pathway leading to the pay-ward building ; and

(*d*) whether the surrounding land of the ward is kept in a neglected condition.

Vaidyasastrakusala Dr. (Mrs.) M. Poonen Lukose : (*a*) Seven. This is not sufficient for the growing needs of the hospital.

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(*b*) It is located in a congenial place. It is not known what the member means by attractive part of the compound.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar (*Nominated*) : May I know whether the Government propose to construct more pay-wards in view of the fact that there is so much demand ?

Vaidyasastrkusala Dr. (Mrs.) M. Poonen Lukose : If private donations come in we can construct more pay-wards.

Aruvikara Bridge

43. **Mr. V. Sankara Menon** (*Trivandrum and Nedumangad* cum *Chirayinkil*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether there was any representation from the people living on the other side of the Aruvikara river praying for a bridge across the river, and if so, what action has been taken on the same ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : Yes. The construction of a bridge at the site is too costly and cannot be taken up now. The question of providing ferry service has been raised and is under consideration.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : May I know whether the construction of a foot-bridge is very costly ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : Yes, Sir. The river is wide and therefore the foot-bridge is costly.

Medical aid to Kanthalloor pakuthi

44. ***Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe** (*Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any hospital or dispensary at any place in the pakuthies of Kanthalloor and Keezhanthoor ?

Vaidyasastrakusala Dr. (Mrs) M. Poonen Lukose : The answer is in the negative.

Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe മെഡിക്കൽഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെശ്രദ്ധ ഈ ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ പതിപ്പിച്ച് ഗവണ്മെന്റിനു വേണ്ട നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കുമോ?

Vaidyasastrakusala Dr. (Mrs.) M. Poonen Lukose : The matter will be considered.

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